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21171 7590 03/19/2008 STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
EXAMINER				
REESE, DAVID C				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,469

Applicant(s)

DINGWALL, DAVID

Examiner

David C. Reese

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-26 and 29-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-13, 19, 20 and 31-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14-18, 21-26, 29 and 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The indicated allowability of claims 1-4, 7-26, and 29-43 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Pippins. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

THIS NON-FINAL ACTION IS RESPONSIVE TO THE AMENDMENT FILED 12/7/2007.

- Claims 5-6 and 27-28 are canceled.
- Claims 1-4, 7-26, and 29-43 were amended.
- Claims 1-4, 7-26, and 29-43 are pending.

Claim Objections

[1] Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: “complimentary to the formations” in line 6 should be “complementary to said pin formations”; “the engaging formation” in line 10 should be just “formations”; “complimentary formations” in line 11 should be “engaging formations of the retaining element”; “said the complimentary formations” from line 18 should be just “said formations”; “the complimentary formations” from line 22 should just be “the formations”. The above changes are required due to how both the pin and retaining element have been claimed in lines 5-6 of the instant claim. It is apparent to the examiner that the retaining element has “engaging formations” while the formations on the pin can best be described as “pin formations”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: it is dependent upon a cancelled claim.

Claims 9-11 are objected to because of the following informalities: in every occurrence of “the complimentary formations” said statement should read as “the pin formations”. As defined by claim 1 (line 6), the complimentary formations refer to the retaining element not the pin.

Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: “from the insertion recess, which withdrawal recess” is grammatically incorrect.

Claim 20 is objected to because of the following informalities: “the said” should be either “the” or “said”.

Claim 21 is objected to because of the following informalities: “wherein retaining element” should be “wherein said retaining element”.

Applicant’s cooperation is requested to ensure that examples of the above are fixed as well as those other instances in which similar issues may be present (such as in other claims).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

[2] Applicant has addressed all rejections under 35 USC § 112 to the Claims in the amendment filed 12/7/2007. Accordingly, the Examiner has withdrawn the 35 USC § 112 rejections.

However, as amended:

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

[3] Claims 8 and 20-26, 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. With regard to claim 8, it is apparent to the examiner that the

locking pin, not the retaining element as currently claimed is what rotates along an axis to have the assembly go from a free to a locked position.

With regard to claim 20, it is apparent to the examiner that it is another part of said resilient member (such as the opposite side) that provides further resilient means, instead of that currently claimed of the component including the resilient means ("wherein said component that includes said retaining element further includes resilient means"). Claims 22-26, 29-30 are dependent upon claim 20.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

[4] The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

[5] Claims 1-4, 7, 9-13, 19, and 31-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)(1)) as anticipated by Pippins, US-6,757,995.

The shape and appearance of Pippins is identical in all material respects to that of the claimed design, *Hupp v. Siroflex of America Inc.*, 122 F.3d 1456, 43 USPQ2d 1887 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

As for Claim 1, Pippins discloses of an apparatus including:

a first component (30) defining a first passage;

a second component (42) connectable with the first component and defining a second passage, said passages being aligned when the components are connected to each other;

a rotatable locking pin (66) having formations (70) and a retaining element (38) having engaging formations (39, 40) complimentary to the formations (70) and each configured for being accommodated in the aligned passages, the rotatable locking pin (66) being rotatable (see col. 6, line 5) relative to the components, in the aligned passages, the components between

a locked position (fig. 3) in which the engaging formations (70) of the locking pin (66) engage at least one of the complimentary formations (39, 40) so as to prevent withdrawal of the locking pin from the aligned passages and to prevent separation of the components, and

a free position (39, 40 into the formations of 70, allowing the removal of both 38 and 66) in which the pin is slidably removable from the aligned passages to permit separation of the components,

wherein said the complimentary formations (70) of the pin (66) at least partly disposed along circumference of the pin (66), and

wherein the pin (66) is configured so that the engaging formations (39, 40) of the retaining element (38) interlock with the complimentary formations (70) of the pin (66) as the pin (66) is rotated (see col. 6, line 5) from the free position (39, 40 into the formations of 70,

allowing the removal of both 38 and 66) to the locked position (fig. 3) to prevent separation of the first (30) and second (42) components.

Re: Claim 2, wherein the first component (30) and second (42) component are connected to each other, they can be separated by effecting relative movement of the components in opposite disengagement directions, and wherein interlocking the pin (66) with the retaining element (38) within the aligned first and second passages prevents the relative movement of the first and second in said opposite disengagement directions and also prevents separation of the first and second components (see fig. 3, prevents relative movement and separation of the first and second components).

Re: Claim 3, wherein the pin (66) when accommodated in the aligned passages, extends in a direction non-parallel to the disengagement directions.

Re: Claim 4, wherein the pin (66), when accommodated in the aligned passages, extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said disengagement directions.

Re: Claim 7, wherein the pin (66) has an axis of rotation and rotation of the pin (66) around that axis moves the pin between the locked position (Fig. 3) and the free position (39, 40 into the formations of 70, allowing the removal of both 38 and 66) and one end of the pin along the axis rests on a part of the first or the second.

Re: Claim 9, wherein the complimentary formations (70) include the land areas that are substantially flat (70).

Re: Claim 10, wherein the complimentary formations (70) include land areas that are substantially concave (adjacent flat part of 70).

Re: Claim 11, wherein the complimentary formations (70) form a slot helical corkscrew (70 is a helical slot around the 66) about the pin (66) so that rotation (see col. 6 lines 3-9) of the pin from the free position (39, 40 into the formations of 70, allowing the removal of both 38 and 66) to the locked position (fig. 3) in one direction draws the pin further into the aligned passages (the pin is brought upwards to a locked position, further into the passage), and upon rotation of the pin in the opposite direction from the locked position to the free position drives the pin out of the aligned passages (once in the free position, the pin is free to be removed from the components with the retaining member).

Re: Claim 12, wherein the pin (66) has therein an insertion recess (70) extending, longitudinally relative to the pin (66) to accommodate the retaining element (via 39, 40) and to permit insertion of the pin (66) into the aligned passages when the insertion recess (70) is aligned with the retaining element (via 39, 40, the pin and retaining element are free to be inserted into the aligned passages).

Re: Claim 13, wherein the insertion recess (70) does not extend along an entire longitudinal length of the pin (66).

Re: Claim 19, wherein at least part of said retaining element (39, 40) is resiliently movable under a force exerted by the pin (60) when the pin is rotated from said free position to said locked position (the detents 39, 40 move into 70 as the pin is rotated from a free to locked position).

Re: Claim 31, wherein the first (30) and second (42) components are machinery components, the first component being a wear-component configured to wear with use, and the second component is configured to support the first component.

Re: Claim 32, wherein the first component (30) and second (42) component are components of earth moving equipment.

Re: Claim 33, wherein the first component (30) and second (42) component are a tooth and an adaptor, respectively, of earth moving equipment, the adaptor being configured to mount the tooth to an earth moving bucket.

Re: Claim 34, wherein the first component (30) and second (42) component are a shroud and adaptor, respectively, of earth moving equipment, the adaptor being configured to mount the shroud to an earth moving bucket.

Re: Claim 35, wherein the first component (30) is one of a tooth and a shroud, and the second (42) component is a lip of an earth moving bucket.

Re: Claim 36, wherein the pin (66) includes a non-circular formation at an end of the pin for engagement with a rotatable tool to effect rotation of the pin between the free and locked positions (see col. 6, lines 2-9).

Re: Claim 37, wherein at one end, the pin (66) has a cavity therein (see col. 6, lines 2-9), and an aperture extending from the end to communicate with the cavity and to permit insertion of a pin-removal tool (80) into the cavity to withdraw the pin (66) from said aligned passages by engagement of the pin-removal tool (80) with the cavity (see col. 6, lines 2-9).

Re: Claim 38, further comprising a cap (64, 65) releasably engageable with said end of the pin (66).

As for claim 39, Pippins teaches of a method of releasably interlocking a first component (20) and a second (32) component, wherein the first component defines a first passage and the second component defines a second passage, the method including the steps of:

connecting the first component (20) to the second component (32) so that the first and second passages are aligned with each other;

providing in one of said components a retaining element (38);

inserting a pin (66), which has a pair of spaced walls (around 70) at least partly defining a circumferentially extending slot (70) for engagement with said retaining element (38 via 39, 40) into the aligned passages so that, when so inserted, the pin is in a free position (when the pin is inserted it is initially placed in a free position, where the detents are in the pin) in which it is free to be selectively withdrawn from the aligned passages;

rotating the pin (see col. 6, line 5) relative to the components, from the free position to a locked position (fig. 3) so that said retaining element (38) interlocks (via 39, 40) with said slot (70) defined by the pair of spaced walls to thereby prevent withdrawal of the pin from the aligned passages and hence to prevent separation of the components.

Re: Claim 40, wherein the step of connecting the first component to the second component includes connecting the components such that they can substantially only be separated by effecting relative movement of the components in opposite disengagement directions, and the step of inserting the pin includes inserting the pin such that, when the pin extends from the first passage into the second passage, the pin prevents said relative movement in said disengagement directions.

Re: Claim 41, wherein said engaging formation comprises a ball (39, 40) and said resilient element comprises a coil spring (63).

Re: Claim 42, wherein said engaging formation comprises a ball (39, 40).

Re: Claim 43, wherein said resilient element comprises a coil spring (63).

Allowable Subject Matter

[6] Claims 14-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As for Claims 14, the prior art, incorporating other corresponding limitations as set forth above, does not teach of a withdrawal recess which is displaced longitudinally on a circumference of the pin and apart from the insertion recess, and which withdrawal recess permits withdrawal of the pin from the aligned passages, when the withdrawal recess is aligned with the retaining element. Claims 15 and 17 are dependent upon claim 14.

As for claims 16 and 18, the prior art does not teach of on the components being closed at one end, such that the aligned passages are closed at one end (claim 16), as well as wherein the passage of one of said components includes two coaxial spaced-apart sub-passages and the passage of the other component is disposed between, and aligned with, said sub-passages when the components are connected to each other, to form said aligned passages (claim 18).

Claims 22-26, 29-30 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The patentability of claim 8 is being withheld until the resolution of the above 112 issues.

Conclusion

[7] THIS ACTION IS NON-FINAL

[8] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Reese whose telephone number is (571) 272-7082. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Sandy can be reached at (571) 272-7073. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is the following: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David Reese

/D. C. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3677

/Robert J. Sandy/
Acting SPE of Art Unit 3677